WE CLAIM:

1. In a method of producing elastic areas on a precursor web suitable for making resultant absorbent garments, the steps comprising:

printing the precursor web with an elastic adhesive;

the precursor web being extendible in an extendible direction;

the elastic adhesive being printed in a shape or pattern sufficient to avert a tensioning force against web distension in the extendible direction of the precursor web; and

constructing an absorbent garment from the precursor web with the elastic adhesive printed thereon.

2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the step of printing the precursor web with the elastic adhesive material further comprises printing the elastic adhesive material to a waistband area of the absorbent garment.

3. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the step of printing the precursor web with the elastic adhesive material further comprises printing the elastic adhesive material to a leg area of the absorbent garment.

4. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the precursor web comprises a backsheet web.

5. The method according to Claim 4 wherein the backsheet web comprises at least one of a nonwoven spunbond web, a microporous film, and an elastomeric film, extendible in one or more directions of the absorbent garment.

6. The method according to Claim 4 wherein the precursor web further comprises a topsheet web.

7. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the precursor web comprises an assembled diaper lacking only a leg or waistband elastic.

8. The method according to Claim 4 wherein the backsheet comprises material selected from the group comprising, necked nonwovens, extendible films, elastomerics, or combinations thereof.

9. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic adhesive material is a compound having vapor permeable liquid barrier properties.

10. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic adhesive material is retractable after elongation to a length substantially equivalent to the original length.

11. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic adhesive material has a cold flow value of less than 20 percent at 54 degrees C.

12. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic adhesive material has a viscosity of less than 70,000 centipoise at 177 degrees C. (350 degrees F.).

13. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic adhesive material has elongation of at least 25 percent.

14. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic adhesive material has retractive force of less than 400 grams force per 2.54 cm (1.0 inch) width at 90 percent elongation.

15. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the printing is done via a heated roller.

16. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the printing is done by at least one of the processes including relief intaglio, planographic, spraying, gravure, screening, and extrusion.

17. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the precursor web is extendible in more than one direction.

18. The method according to Claim 17 wherein the elastic adhesive is printed in selected patterns for reinforcement of the precursor web.